

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:)
Clifton Lind et al.)
)
Serial No.: 10/726,979) Examiner: Eric M. Thomas
)
Filed: December 3, 2003) Group Art Unit: 3714
)
FOR: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND) Technology Center: 3700
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR)
CONDUCTING BINGO GAMES WITH) Confirmation No.: 5074
PRE-ASSIGNED BINGO CARDS AND)
PRE-MATCHED BINGO CARD SETS)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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BRIEF OF APPELLANTS

This is an appeal from the Final Office Action issued December 9, 2010 (the "Final Office Action"), rejecting claims 1 through 20 in the above-identified application. Appellants submit this brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences within the two-month period following the Notice of Appeal filed February 4, 2011. The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2) is being submitted concurrently with this brief via EFS.

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1 **I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(i))**

2 The above-described patent application is assigned to Multimedia Games, Inc., the real
3 party in interest.

4

5 **II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(ii))**

6 There is no related Appeal or Interference before the United States Patent and Trademark
7 Office.

8

9 **III. STATUS OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(iii))**

10 The status of the claims is as follows:

11 Allowed Claims: None

12 Claims to which Objections apply: None

13 Claims withdrawn from consideration: None

14 Claims Canceled: None

15 Claims Rejected: 1 through 20

16 ClaimsAppealed: 1 through 20

17

18 **IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(iv))**

19 There have been no claim amendments filed subsequent to the Final Office Action issued
20 December 9, 2010.

1 **V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(v))**

2 The application includes three independent claims, claims 1, 8, and 14 each of which is
3 summarized as follows. All page and line number references below are to the original
4 application, and drawing references are to the original drawings all filed December 3, 2003.

5 Claim 1

6 Claim 1 is directed to a method which includes matching a first set of game designations
7 with a set of bingo card representations to produce a matched card set. (p. 5, lines 6-7). The
8 matched card set includes a number of game play records with each game play record
9 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations. (p. 5, lines 9-10; p. 35, lines
10 1-4; Fig. 10, ref. no. 102) Each game play record includes a result indicator indicating a result of
11 the match between the first set of game designations and the respective bingo card representation.
12 (p. 5, lines 10-13; p. 35, lines 6-12; Fig. 10 ref. no. 105). The method set out in claim 1 also
13 includes receiving a number of game play requests. (p. 5, lines 16-17; p. 14, lines 1-2; p. 22,
14 lines 13-19; Fig. 6, block 67). Each of the received game play requests is associated with a
15 respective player and includes identifying information to identify a respective bingo card
16 representation from the set of bingo card representations. (p. 5, lines 15-19; p. 7, lines 10-15; p.
17 28, lines 3-11). For each received game play request, the method of claim 1 further includes
18 assigning the respective player the game play record identified by the identifying information
19 included with the game play request. (p. 6, lines 14-20; p. 22, lines 13-16; Fig. 6, block 67). The
20 identifying information which identifies the respective bingo card representation produces an
21 association between the respective bingo card representation and the respective player prior to the
22 assignment of the respective game play record to the respective player. (p. 28, lines 3-14).

1 Claim 8

2 Claim 8 is directed to a program product stored on a computer readable medium. (p. 1,
3 lines 16-17). The program product includes matching program code and game play assignment
4 program code. The matching program code is executable to match a first set of game
5 designations with a set of bingo card representations to produce a matched card set. (p. 20, lines
6 12-18; p. 35, line 19 - p. 36, line 2). This matched card set includes a number of game play
7 records. (p. 5, lines 9-10). Each game play record corresponds to a different one of the bingo
8 card representations and includes a result indicator indicating a result of the match between the
9 first set of game designations and the respective bingo card representation. (p. 5, lines 10-13; p.
10 35, lines 6-12; Fig. 10, ref. no. 105). The game play assignment program code is executable to
11 assign game play records from the matched card set such that a respective game play record is
12 assigned in response to each respective game play request. (p. 22, lines 13-18; Fig. 6, block 67).
13 Each respective game play request is associated with a respective player and includes identifying
14 information to identify a respective bingo card representation in the matched card set. (p. 5, lines
15 15-19; p. 7, lines 10-15; p. 28, lines 3-11). Also, the respective game play record assigned for a
16 respective game play request is the game play record corresponding to the bingo card
17 representation identified by the identifying information. (p. 6, lines 14-20; p. 22, lines 13-16).
18 The identifying information for the respective bingo card representation produces an association
19 between the respective bingo card representation and the respective player prior to the
20 assignment of the respective game play record to the respective player. (p. 28, lines 3-14)

1 Claim 14

2 Claim 14 is directed to a gaming system comprising a number of player stations (40 in
3 Fig. 3), a central processing system (34, 36 in Fig. 3), and a communications system (20, 17, 18a,
4 18b, 42 in Fig. 3). (p. 11, linc 19 - p. 12, line 11; p. 16, line 14 - p. 17, line 4; Fig. 3). Each of
5 these elements is defined in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph six. Each player station
6 functions to enable a player to initiate a game play request and to display results of a game play
7 upon receipt of a game play record. (p. 16, line 14 - p. 17, line 4; and Figs. 3-4). Each game play
8 request initiated by a player station is associated with the initiating player and includes
9 identifying information which identifies a respective bingo card representation in a set of bingo
10 card representations. (p. 28, lines 3-11). The central processing system functions to store a set of
11 game play records, each game play record corresponding to a respective bingo card
12 representation which has been matched to a first set of game designations. (p. 22, lines 9-11; Fig.
13 6, block 66). The central processing system also functions to assign a respective game play
14 record from the set of game play records to a player in response to a game play request initiated
15 by the respective player at one of the player stations. (p. 22, 13-18; Fig. 6, block 67). The
16 respective game play record that is assigned to a respective player is the game play record
17 corresponding to the bingo card representation that was previously associated with that particular
18 player by the identifying information included in the game play request initiated by that player.
19 (p. 6, lines 14-20; p. 22, lines 13-16; p. 28, lines 3-14). The communications system is
20 operatively connected to the central processing system and to each of the player stations and
21 functions to facilitate communications between the central processing system and each player

1 station. (p. 11, line 19 - p. 12, line 2; p. 15, line 18 - p. 16, line 3; Figs. 3-4, ref. nos. 17, 18a, 18b,
2 20, 42).

3

4 **VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**
5 **(37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vi))**

6 Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-16 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type
7 double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 7-10, 12, 16-18, 21-22, 28 and 34-36 of
8 U.S. Patent No. 6,802,776 to Lind et al. (the “776 patent”).

9 Claims 1 through 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)¹ as being anticipated by the
10 776 patent.

11

12 **VII. ARGUMENT (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii))**

13 A. CLAIMS 1-4, 7-11, and 14-16 ARE NOT OBJECTIONABLE FOR NONSTATUTORY
14 OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING OVER CLAIMS FROM THE 776
15 PATENT

16 A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate for a given
17 claim where the given claim is not patentably distinct from a reference claim because the given
18 claim is merely an obvious variation of the reference claim. *See In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046,
19 29 U.S. P.Q. 2d 1226, 2015-16 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In the present case, the rejected claims clearly
20 include limitations not taught or suggested by the 776 patent. Thus the present claims cannot be

¹The Final Office Action in fact cites 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in the heading for the Section 102 rejections over the 776 patent. However, the paragraph following this heading in the Final Office Action references 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The Appellants assume the Section 102 rejection is under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) since the 776 patent is not a 102(b) reference, but is on its face a 102(e) reference.

1 merely obvious variations on the subject matter claimed in the 776 patent. The nonstatutory
2 obviousness-type double patenting rejections are therefore in error and should be reversed.

3 Independent claim 1 is directed to a method that requires the following limitations:

- 4 (a) with a data processing system, matching a first set of game designations with a set
5 of bingo card representations to produce a matched card set and storing the
6 matched card set in data storage for the data processing system, the matched card
7 set including data representing a number of game play records with each game
8 play record corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and
9 including a result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of
10 game designations and the respective bingo card representation;
- 11 (b) receiving a number of game play requests at the data processing system, **each**
12 **respective game play request being received from a respective remote device**
13 **and being associated with a respective player and including identifying**
14 **information to identify a respective bingo card representation from the set of**
15 **bingo card representations;**
- 16 (c) for each game play request, **assigning the respective player the game play**
17 **record corresponding to the respective bingo card representation identified**
18 **by the identifying information included with that game play request,** the
19 assigning being performed by the data processing system; and
- 20 (d) **wherein the identifying information produces an association between the**
21 **respective bingo card representation and the respective player prior to the**
22 **assignment of the respective game play record to the respective player.**
23 (Emphasis added).

24 Claim 1 of the 776 patent is directed to a method of producing and utilizing a set of game play
25 records for a bingo-type game which employs a first set of game designations selected from a
26 pool of available game designations and further employs a set of bingo card representations,
27 where each bingo card representation in the set of bingo card representations includes a number
28 of card designations which are selected from the pool of available game designations. Claim 1 of
29 the 776 patent requires the following steps:

- 30 (a) matching the first set of game designations with card designations of the
31 respective bingo card representations to produce a matched card set, the matched
32 card set including a number of game play records with each game play record
33 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a

1 result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of game
2 designations and the card designations for the respective bingo card representation
3 to which the respective game play record corresponds;
4 (b) storing data representing the matched card set in a data storage device; and
5 (c) **assigning game play records from the matched card set in a random order,**
6 each game play record assigned to a respective player among a number of
7 players participating in the bingo-type game in response to a game play
8 request initiated by the respective player (Emphasis Added).

9 The fundamental difference between the subject matter of the present claims and the
10 claims of the 776 patent is immediately apparent upon comparing the bolded portions of the
11 claims set out above. Specifically, claim 1 of the 776 patent requires that the game play records
12 be assigned in a random order and that each game play record is assigned to a respective player
13 among a number of players participating in the bingo-type game in response to a game play
14 request initiated by the respective player. In contrast, element (b) of claim 1 of the present
15 application requires that each respective game play request that is received, that is, each
16 incoming game play request, is associated with a respective player and includes identifying
17 information to identify a respective bingo card representation from the set of bingo card
18 representations. Element (c) of claim 1 of the present case then requires that for each received
19 game play request the respective player is assigned the game play record corresponding to the
20 respective bingo card representation that is identified by the identifying information included in
21 the incoming game play request. **Thus the present claims do not merely require that the**
22 **game play records are assigned to incoming game play requests as in the claims of the 776**
23 **patent. Rather, the incoming game play requests in the presently claimed gaming system**
24 **each specify a respective bingo card representation, and the game play record for that**

1 **particular bingo card representation is assigned to the player in response to the game play**
2 **request.**

3 The Final Office Action provides the following rationale for the obviousness-type double
4 patenting rejections.

5 The claims are not patentability [sic] distinct from one another because it would
6 have been obvious at the time of the invention to implement a similar bingo game
7 with a plurality of game play requests associated with respective players and
8 request multiple bingo cards in order to provide [sic] multiplayer bingo system
9 with multiple ways to win. One would be motivated because a multiplayer bingo
10 system allows for players to enjoy a bingo game in a traditional setting. Final
11 Office Action at p. 3, lines 14-20.

12 The emphasis on multiplayer bingo in this rationale indicates that the Final Office Action has
13 misconstrued the differences between the presently claimed subject matter and the subject matter
14 claimed in the 776 patent. Both the claims in the 776 patent and the present claims are directed
15 to multiplayer bingo systems. However, the present claims require that each incoming game play
16 request identifies a respective bingo card representation and the game play records are assigned
17 on that basis rather than on a random basis as in the system described in the 776 patent. The
18 Final Office Action appears to entirely miss this distinction between the present claims and the
19 subject matter claimed in the 776 patent. The Final Office Action certainly does not provide any
20 reason as to why it would have been obvious to modify the subject matter claimed in the 776
21 patent so that each incoming game play request included identifying information that identified a
22 particular bingo card representation.

23 The Appellants note that the claim language cited at page 4, lines 4-10 of the Final Office
24 Action is not the current language of claim 1 of the present case. It appears that in making out

1 the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, the Final Office Action did not consider the
2 claims as amended by the amendment filed June 7, 2010.

3 The Final Office Action concludes the discussion of the obviousness-type double
4 patenting rejection with the following paragraph.

5 It is clear that all the elements of claim 1 are to be found in claim 1. The
6 difference between claim 1 of the application and claim 1 of the patent lies in the
7 fact that the application includes element (d), **which makes it more specific**.
8 Since claim 1 is anticipated by claim 1 of the patent, it is not patentably distinct
9 from claim 1. Final Office Action at p. 4, lines 11-15. (Emphasis Added).

10 Although the Appellants do not understand what is meant by the bolded language above,
11 it is abundantly clear that element (d) includes a limitation that is simply foreign to the 776
12 patent. Specifically, element (d) of claim 1 of the present application requires that the identifying
13 information included in the game play request from the remote device “produces an association
14 between the respective bingo card representation and the respective player prior to the
15 assignment of the respective game play record to the respective player.” As discussed above,
16 there is no such association between a given bingo player and a respective bingo card
17 representation disclosed in the 776 patent until after a game play record is assigned for a game
18 play request. Furthermore, the limitation at element (d) is not the only limitation from the
19 present claim 1 that is not present in claim 1 of the 776 patent. Again as discussed above, claim
20 1 of the 776 patent does not include the identifying information specified at claim 1, element (b)
21 of the present application, and does not include the assignment of the identified bingo card
22 representation required at element (c) of claim 1 of the present application.

23 Although the above discussion is based on a comparison of claim 1 from the present
24 application to claim 1 of the 776 patent, with one exception, the above arguments apply similarly

1 to the other claims of the present case and the remaining claims of the 776 patent. That
2 exception is that some of the claims of the 776 patent do not specifically require that the game
3 play records are assigned “in a random order” in response to incoming game play requests. For
4 example, claim 19 of the 776 patent requires at element (b) “assigning a number of the matched
5 bingo card representations from the matched card set, each matched bingo card representation
6 being assigned to a respective player in response to a game play request of the respective player.”
7 However, all of the claims of the present application require that each received game play request
8 includes identifying information which identifies a respective bingo card representation (element
9 (b) of claim 1, element (b) of claim 8, and element (a) of claim 14). This arrangement in which
10 the incoming game play requests each identify a respective bingo card representation is neither
11 claimed, disclosed, nor suggested in the 776 patent.

12 For all of these reasons the Appellants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-
13 16 are not objectionable on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over
14 the claims of the 776 patent, and believe that the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting
15 rejections stated in the Final Office Action should be reversed.

16

17 B. CLAIMS 1 THROUGH 20 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE 776 PATENT
18 Claim 1

19 As discussed above in connection with the double-patenting rejections, element (b) of
20 claim 1 of the present application requires that each game play request, that is, each incoming
21 request for a play in the game, is associated with a particular player and includes identifying
22 information to identify a respective bingo card representation from the set of bingo card

1 representations. Element (c) of the Appellants' claim 1 requires assigning to a respective player
2 the game play record corresponding to the respective bingo card representation that is identified
3 by the identifying information in the game play request. The 776 patent fails to disclose either of
4 these limitations. In contrast to the method set out in Appellants' claim 1, the 776 patent
5 discloses that the game play requests need only include sufficient information to identify the
6 matched card set from which a game play record is to be assigned (776 patent at col. 13, lines 49-
7 58) and that the game play records are randomly assigned to players (776 patent at col. 16, line
8 64 to col. 17, line 4).

9 The Final Office Action fails to address the differences between the subject matter
10 required in each independent claim in the case (claims 1, 8, and 14) and the system disclosed in
11 the 776 patent. In fact, the ground for rejection set out in the Final Office Action describing
12 elements (b) and (c) of claim 1 and 8 and elements (a) and (b) of claim 14 sets out the claim
13 language prior to the amendment filed June 7, 2010 in the case. See the Final Office Action at p.
14 5, lines 17-22 and p. 9, lines 8-21 and compare this language to the actual requirements of claims
15 1, 8, and 14. These rejections set out at pages 5-6 and page 9 of the Final Office Action cannot
16 make out a proper anticipation rejection because they do not even address the actual language of
17 the present claims. Again, as discussed above, when one compares the actual requirements of
18 independent claims 1, 8, and 14 with the disclosure of the 776 patent, it is apparent that the 776
19 patent does not disclose or even suggest the limitations of elements (b), (c), and (d) of claim 1,
20 element (b) of claim 8, and elements (a) and (b) of claim 14, all regarding the bingo card
21 representation identifying information included in the game play request and the assignment of

1 the game play record corresponding to the bingo card representation that was identified by the
2 identifying information in the game play request.

3 The Appellants note the comments set out in the Final Office Action at page 11, line 15 through
4 page 12, line 19. However, the cited disclosure from the 776 patent simply does not represent or
5 even suggest the limitations set out in the present claims regarding the bingo card representation
6 identifying information included in the incoming game play requests and the regarding the
7 assignment of a game play record by the bingo card representation identifying information
8 included in the incoming game play request. The fact remains that the 776 patent fails to
9 disclose that the player initiated game play requests include bingo card representation identifying
10 information as required at element (b) of claim 1, and also fails to disclose the assignment of the
11 identified bingo card representation as required at element (c) of claim 1. In fact, the 776 patent
12 specifically discloses that the game play records (and thus pre-matched bingo card
13 representations) are assigned randomly in response to incoming game play requests (776 patent at
14 col. 16, line 64 to col. 17, line 4).

15 For these reasons, the Appellants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by the
16 776 patent, and that claim 1 is entitled to allowance along with its respective dependent claims,
17 claims 2 through 7. The Appellants therefore respectfully submit that the anticipation rejections
18 of claims 1 through 7 are in error and should be reversed.

19 Independent Claims 8 and 14

20 Independent claims 8 and 14 are directed to a program product and apparatus,
21 respectively, that require limitations similar to those of claim 1. In particular, claims 8 and 14
22 require that each game play request is associated with the game play request initiating player and

1 includes identifying information to identify a particular bingo card representation from the set of
2 bingo card representations. Claims 8 and 14 additionally require that the game play record
3 assigned to a respective player in response to a game play request is the game play record
4 corresponding to the bingo card representation that was previously associated with that player by
5 the identifying information included in the game play request. As discussed above, the 776
6 patent does not disclose these limitations. Thus, the arguments presented above with respect to
7 claim 1 apply with equal force to claims 8 and 14.

8 For these reasons, the Appellants respectfully submit that independent claims 8 and 14
9 are not anticipated by the 776 patent, and that claims 8 and 14 are entitled to allowance along
10 with their respective dependent claims, claims 9 through 13 and claims 15 through 20. The
11 Appellants therefore respectfully submit that the anticipation rejections of claims 8 through 13
12 and claims 14 through 20 are in error and should be reversed.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For all of these reasons the Appellants submit that claims 1 through 20 are entitled to allowance and respectfully request that the Board reverse the decision of the Examiner rejecting these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

The Culbertson Group, P.C.

Date: 9 March 2011

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1 **IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(viii))**

2

3 1. A method including the steps of:

- 4 (a) with a data processing system, matching a first set of game designations with a set
5 of bingo card representations to produce a matched card set and storing the
6 matched card set in data storage for the data processing system, the matched card
7 set including data representing a number of game play records with each game
8 play record corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and
9 including a result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of
10 game designations and the respective bingo card representation;
- 11 (b) receiving a number of game play requests at the data processing system, each
12 respective game play request being received from a respective remote device and
13 being associated with a respective player and including identifying information to
14 identify a respective bingo card representation from the set of bingo card
15 representations;
- 16 (c) for each game play request, assigning the respective player the game play record
17 corresponding to the respective bingo card representation identified by the
18 identifying information included with that game play request, the assigning being
19 performed by the data processing system; and
- 20 (d) wherein the identifying information produces an association between the
21 respective bingo card representation and the respective player prior to the
22 assignment of the respective game play record to the respective player.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
- 2 (a) assigning game play records from the matched card set until a game winning
- 3 player holds a game play record corresponding to a matched bingo card
- 4 representation having a game ending pattern; and
- 5 (b) the data processing system withdrawing the matched card set from play in
- 6 response to the assignment of the game play record corresponding to the matched
- 7 bingo card representation having the game ending pattern.
- 8
- 9 3. The method of claim 1 further including the step of, with the data processing system,
- 10 matching an additional game designation set with the set of bingo card representations to
- 11 produce an additional matched card set and storing the additional matched card set in the
- 12 data storage for the data processing system, the additional matched card set including a
- 13 number of respective additional game play records with each additional game play record
- 14 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a result
- 15 indicator indicating a result of the match between the additional game designation set and
- 16 the respective bingo card representation.
- 17
- 18 4. The method of claim 3 further including the steps of:
- 19 (a) receiving at the data processing system an additional game play request associated
- 20 with a given player who has already been assigned a respective game play record
- 21 from the matched card set, the additional game play request also including
- 22 identifying information to identify a respective bingo card representation from the

1 set of bingo card representations, the identifying information associating the
2 respective bingo card representation with the given player; and
3 (b) assigning the given player the additional game play record corresponding to the
4 respective bingo card representation with which the given player is associated.

5

6 5. The method of claim 3 further including the step of assigning an additional game play
7 record from the additional matched card set in response to a game play request which
8 next follows a game play request for which is assigned a game ending game play record,
9 the assigning of the additional game play record being performed by the data processing
10 system.

11

12 6. The method of claim 3 further including the step of assigning game play records from the
13 matched card set for a set period of time and then assigning additional game play records
14 from the additional matched card set after that set period of time.

15

16 7. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
17 (a) with the data processing system, matching a number of additional game
18 designation sets with the set of bingo card representations to produce a number of
19 additional matched card sets, each additional matched card set including a number
20 of respective additional game play records with each additional game play record
21 in a given one of the additional matched cards sets corresponding to a different
22 one of the bingo card representations and including a result indicator indicating a

1 result of the match between the respective additional game designation set and the
2 respective bingo card representation; and
3 (b) storing each additional matched card set in the data storage for the data processing
4 system so that respective additional game records are available for assignment by
5 the data processing system in response to a respective game play request.
6

- 7 8. A program product stored on a computer readable medium, the program product
8 including:
9 (a) matching program code for matching a first set of game designations with a set of
10 bingo card representations to produce a matched card set, the matched card set
11 including a number of game play records with each game play record
12 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a
13 result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of game
14 designations and the respective bingo card representation; and
15 (b) game play assignment program code for assigning game play records from the
16 matched card set, a respective game play record being assigned in response to a
17 respective game play request, each respective game play request being associated
18 with a respective player and including identifying information to identify a
19 respective bingo card representation in the matched card set, and the respective
20 game play record assigned for a respective game play request being the game play
21 record corresponding to the bingo card representation identified by the identifying
22 information, wherein the identifying information for the respective bingo card

1 representation produces an association between the respective bingo card
2 representation and the respective player prior to the assignment of the respective
3 game play record to the respective player.

4

5 9. The program product of claim 8 further including:

- 6 (a) game ending play monitoring program code for detecting when a player has been
7 assigned a game play record corresponding to a matched bingo card representation
8 having a game ending pattern; and
- 9 (b) matched card set switching program code for switching to a different matched
10 card set when the game ending play monitoring program code detects that a player
11 has been assigned the game play record corresponding to the matched bingo card
12 representation having the game ending pattern.

13

14 10. The program product of Claim 8 wherein the matching program code matches an
15 additional game designation set with the set of bingo card representations to produce an
16 additional matched card set, the additional matched card set including a number of
17 respective additional game play records with each additional game play record
18 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a result
19 indicator indicating a result of the match between the additional game designation set and
20 the respective bingo card representation.

21

- 1 11. The program product of Claim 10 wherein the game play assignment program code
- 2 responds to a game play request from a given player who has been assigned a game play
- 3 record from the matched card set by assigning the given player an additional game play
- 4 record from the additional matched card set, the assigned additional game play record
- 5 corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which the given player is
- 6 associated, and having been assigned to the given player based on identifying information
- 7 included in the game play request from the given player which identified a respective
- 8 bingo card representation from the additional matched card set.
- 9
- 10 12. The program product of claim 11 wherein the game play assignment program code
- 11 assigns a respective additional game play record from the additional matched card set in
- 12 response to a game play request which next follows a game play request for which is
- 13 assigned a game ending game play record from the matched card set.
- 14
- 15 13. The program product of claim 10 wherein the game play assignment program code
- 16 assigns game play records from the matched card set for a set period of time and then
- 17 assigns additional game play records from the additional matched card set after that set
- 18 period of time.

1 14. A gaming system comprising:

- 2 (a) a number of player stations, each player station for enabling a player to initiate a
3 game play request and for displaying results of a game play upon receipt of a
4 game play record, each game play request initiated by a player station being
5 associated with the initiating player and including identifying information which
6 identifies a respective bingo card representation in a set of bingo card
7 representations;
- 8 (b) a central processing system for storing a set of game play records, each game play
9 record corresponding to a respective bingo card representation which has been
10 matched to a first set of game designations, the central processing system also for
11 assigning a respective game play record from the set of game play records to a
12 player in response to a game play request initiated by the respective player at one
13 of the player stations, the respective game play record assigned to the player being
14 the game play record corresponding to the bingo card representation that was
15 previously associated with that player by the identifying information included in
16 the game play request initiated by that player; and
- 17 (c) a communications system operatively connected to the central processing system
18 and to each of the player stations for facilitating communications between the
19 central processing system and each player station.

- 1 15. The gaming system of claim 14 wherein:
- 2 (a) the central processing system stores a number of additional sets of game play
3 records, each game play record in a respective additional set of game play records
4 corresponding to a respective one of the bingo card representations which has
5 been matched to an additional set of game designations; and
- 6 (b) the central processing system also assigns a respective game play record from one
7 of the additional sets of game play records to a player in response to a game play
8 request initiated by the respective player at a respective one of the player stations,
9 the respective game play record assigned to the player from the additional set of
10 game play records being the game play record in that additional set corresponding
11 to the bingo card representation that is associated with that player.
- 12
- 13 16. The gaming system of claim 14 wherein the matched card set includes a game ending
14 game play record corresponding to a bingo card representation from the set of bingo card
15 representations and wherein the central processing system withdraws the matched card set
16 from play in response to the assignment of the game ending game play record.
- 17
- 18 17. The gaming system of claim 14 further including a gaming floor component for directing
19 a bingo card request to the central processing system in response to a bingo card request
20 input entered for a respective player, and wherein the central processing system responds
21 to the bingo card request by associating a respective bingo card representation from the

1 bingo card representation set with the respective player for whom the bingo card request
2 input was entered.

3

4 18. The gaming system of claim 17 wherein the gaming floor component comprises one of
5 the player stations.

6

7 19. The gaming system of claim 17 further including a point of sale terminal distinct from the
8 player stations and wherein the gaming floor component comprises the point of sale
9 terminal.

10

11 20. The gaming system of claim 14 wherein the central processing system is also for
12 maintaining a database correlating each of a number of respective players to one or more
13 bingo card representations with which the respective player is associated.

1 **X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(ix))**

2 The Appellants have not relied upon any evidence in this appeal according to 37 C.F.R.

3 §41.37(c)(1)(ix).

1 **XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(x))**

2 There is no related Appeal or Interference before the United States Patent and Trademark

3 Office.